

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
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**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

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Contact: Chris Mackey
Office: (919) 733-5612

CEOs' Not-So-Secret Key to Success: Education
Corporate Chiefs Link Education Investment to State's Economic Progress

RALEIGH – Gov. Bev Perdue continued her jobs tour this week at a business and education roundtable with CEOs from across the state who explained that their formulas for success all include one crucial ingredient that doesn't show up in a quarterly report or on the stock market ticker: education.

Perdue, who by Friday has announced more than 1,100 new jobs in the past three weeks, brought together nine leaders of companies, ranging from drug developers to tire makers. The corporate leaders all expressed a strong belief that further investment in education is crucial to North Carolina's economic success. The event was organized with the help of the North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE).

Gov. Perdue convened the roundtable discussion at the RBC Center in Raleigh, home of the Carolina Hurricanes, whose director of marketing, Doug Warf, played host.

Highlights of the comments include:

Tom Looney, VP and General Manager, Lenovo

"The one thing I found here is we have a very talented, educated workforce that's enabled me to keep our call center here in North Carolina, and quite frankly there were a lot of choices for us, especially during the recession," Looney said. "The key in retaining growing businesses like mine is continuing the momentum forward in education so the state grows as these companies grow, and we grow in North Carolina and not other states in the country."

Ed Paradise, VP of Software Quality, Cisco

"The education system is just so critical to why we came here originally and why it helps us grow here and attract families and talent here," Paradise said. "We're at a great time here where